

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ELTN, EWWT, ECON, UR

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF WESTERN SIBERIAN TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

REF: MOSCOW 6582

1. PRAVDA OF JUNE 11 CARRIES LENGTHY ARTICLE ON PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SAMOTLOR AND OTHER OIL FIELDS IN TYUMEN' OBLAST' OF WESTERN SIBERIA (TO BE REPORTED SEPARATELY). IN ARTICLE R. KUZOVATKIN, CHIEF OF PRODUCTION ADMINISTRATION "NIZHNEVARTOVSKNEFT", INDICATES THAT SPUR RAIL LINE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED NORTHWARD FROM SURGUT (ON THE SOON-TO-BE COMPLETED TYUMEN'-TOBOLSK-NIZHNEVARTOVSK LINE) TO URENGOY, SITE OF MASSIVE GAS FIELDS. THIS LINE, HE STATES, WILL BE "PIVOTAL", LINKING TOGETHER MANY MAJOR OIL AND GAS FIELDS OF NORTHERN TYUMEN' OBLAST'.

2. KUZOVATKIN CONTINUES THAT MANY OF AREA'S FUEL-BEARING REGIONS
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WILL NOENTHELESS REMAIN INACCESSIBLE TO LAND TRANSPORT DUE TO

PREVAILING MARSHES AND SWAMPS WHICH ARE IMPASSIBLE IN SUMMER.
TO SERVICE FUTURE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRIES WITHIN THESE WILDS
IT WILL BE NECESSARY, HE SAYS, TO DEVELOP RIVER FLEET OF SHALLOW-
DRAFT SHIPS, AND TO DREDGE AND WIDEN BEDS OF SMALLER RIVERS
OF AREA.

3. COMEMNT: GLANCE AT MAP OF WESTERN SIBERIA SHOWS THAT
SURGUT, URENGOY, AND NORILSK LIE IN ALMOST STRAIGHT LINE,
WITH URENGOY APPROXIMATELY EQUIDISTANT FROM BOTH EXTREMES.
IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO ASSUME, THEREFORE, THAT NEW LINE TO
URENGOY MAY ULTIMATELY BE EXTENDED TO NORILSK FOR SERVICING
MAJOR NICKEL-PROCESING COMPLEX THERE. IN GENERAL, DEVELOP-
MENT OF WESTERN SIBERIA TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE MENTIONED IN
PASSING BY KUZOVATKIN APPEARS IN KEEPING WITH OVERALL BROAD
SIBERIAN TRANSPORTATION POLICY (REFTEL) WHICH SOVIETS
APPARENTLY HOPE, ALBEIT PIECEMEAL, TO CARRY OUT.
MATLOCK

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